

REPORT
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SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

SOURCE As indicated

ESTONIAN SHALE INDUSTRY REPORTS PROGRESS

[Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

Mine No 10, the largest mine in the Estonian shale basin, began, on 20 October, to cut the first 600-meter panel (section). The width of the panels in the shale mines formerly had been 300 meters. By enlarging them and changing the plan of existing workings, a stable front for extraction operations is created, the exploitation period of the faces is increased, and extraction costs are greatly reduced.

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In 1948, Estonian shale mines were still being worked by the room and pillar method. Several persons worked in small quarters, and extensive mechanization of production processes was impossible. By the beginning of the Fifth Five-Year Plan the room and pillar method had been discontinued and the mines were worked instead by 80-meter double faces and were provided with cutting machines, conveyers, machines for propping mine workings, and other mechanisms. The length of a number of faces in Kukruse Mine and Mine No 10 has been raised to 95 meters. At present three fourths of all the faces in the basin are operating on the cycle work schedule.

Engineers and technicians of the Estonians Combine have worked out a new scheme of operations whereby the average width of panels will be raised to 500-600 meters and the average length of faces 120-150 meters. This scheme will permit an increase of one fourth in the shale output and will allow for better utilization of mechanisms. The productivity of conveyers and cutting machines will be raised to one and a half times its previous level. Expenses will be cut for development work and for installation and disassembly operations.(8)

SOURCES

1. Tallin, Sovetskaya Estoniya, 21 Jul 53
2. Ibid., 30 Aug 53
3. Ibid., 12 Sep 53
4. Ibid., 11 Oct 53
5. Ibid., 7 Jul 53
6. Moscow, Trud, 23 Jun 53
7. Sovetskaya Estoniya, 4 Nov 53
8. Moscow, Komsomol'skaya Pravda, 21 Oct 53

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